

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the above amendments and in light of the following remarks and discussion.

Claims 1-36 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 10, 19, 26, 31, 33 and 35 are amended. Support for the changes to the claims is self-evident from the originally filed disclosure, including the original claims, and therefore no new matter is added.

In the Office Action claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 10, 11, 15, 16, 19, 20, 24, 25 and 28-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,583,644 to Sasanuma et al. (Sasanuma '644) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,737,665 to Sugiyama et al. (Sugiyama). Claims 3, 12 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasanuma '644 and Sugiyama, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,367,992 to Aruga et al. Claims 4, 13 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasanuma '644 and Sugiyama, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,797,061 to Overall et al. Claims 5, 14 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasanuma '644 and Sugiyama, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,618,162 to Wiklof et al. Claims 8, 17 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasanuma '644 and Sugiyama, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,076,915 to Gast et al. and Japanese Publication No. 11-070701 to Watabe. Claims 9, 18 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sasanuma '644 and Sugiyama, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,258,783 to Sasanuma et al. It is requested that the rejections of the claims be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed, for the following reasons.

The present invention, as set forth in independent claim 1, is directed to a printer controller configured to generate pattern data for use in a tone adjusting process.

Specifically, independent claim 1 recites a selecting unit configured to select a dot size of a reference tone pattern by varying a number of pixels forming each dot of the reference tone pattern. A generating unit is configured to generate and output to a printer device the reference tone pattern having the dot size selected by the selecting unit and tone adjusting patterns having tones of a predetermined range including a reference tone of the reference tone pattern. Based on the output from the generating unit, the printer device prints the reference tone pattern and the tone adjusting patterns on a recording medium for evaluation in the tone adjusting process.

The claimed invention can provide numerous advantages. By way of specific non-limiting examples, the printer device prints the reference tone pattern and the tone adjusting patterns on the recording medium for evaluation in the tone adjusting process. By this arrangement, correction can be made based on how the printer device prints on the recording medium under actual printing conditions. Thus, more precise correction can be achieved as compared to other correction methods. *See*, for example, from page 15, line 7 to page 21, line 1 of Applicants' originally filed specification. These advantages are not provided by devices in which correction is not based on a comparison of a reference tone pattern and tone adjusting patterns printed on a recording medium, because correction is not based on a comparison of the patterns as they actually print and therefore printing variations caused by many components of the image forming apparatus are not considered in the correction.

Sasanuma '644 is directed to a system for correcting image density that uses, in one embodiment, a pattern of color continuously formed around a photoconductive drum. *See* column 4, lines 55-59, and column 6, lines 15-17. Sasanuma '644 does not depict or describe, however, printing a reference tone pattern and tone adjusting patterns on a recording medium for evaluation in a tone adjusting process. Therefore, it is submitted that

Sasanuma '644 does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features recited in independent claim 1, and that Sasanuma '644 also cannot provide the advantages provided by the claimed invention.

Although the Office Action relies on Sugiyama to remedy the deficiencies of Sasanuma '644, Sugiyama is directed to an apparatus for calibrating toner density for color images in which test patterns are formed on a photoconductive drum 3. See column 3, lines 21-23. Sugiyama also does not depict or describe, however, printing a reference tone pattern and tone adjusting patterns on a recording medium for evaluation in a tone adjusting process. Therefore, it is submitted that Sugiyama does not disclose or render obvious the claimed features recited in independent claim 1, and that Sugiyama also cannot provide the advantages provided by the claimed invention.

It is therefore requested that the rejection of independent claim 1 be withdrawn, and that independent claim 1 be allowed.

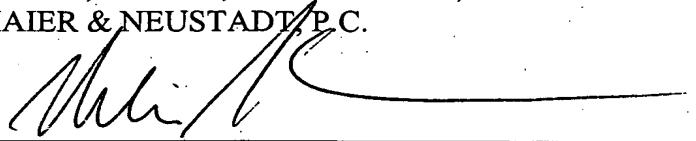
Independent claims 10, 19, 31, 33 and 35 are allowable for reasons similar to those of independent claim 1. The allowance of independent claims 10, 19, 31, 33 and 35, as well as claims 2-9, 11-18, 20-30, 32, 34 and 36 is requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

Philip J. Hoffmann
Registration No. 46,340

GJM/PH/mda
I:\ATTY\PH\21S\212531\212531 AM.DOC